

The Races and Languages of the Hindu-Kush. 9

for many years a slave in Chila, as Ahmad Shah reports). The Gabriell 000
were converted to Muhammadanism by a saint named *Abdullah*, whose [779]
shrine is in Gabriell, and is one of the most frequented places by pilgrims. 793
The Gabriell say that this saint lived six or seven generations ago. Mir 873
Abdulla (who is really of Afghanistan, but now lives in Gabriell) says that
the Gabriell were converted to Islam about 150 years ago. Lastly, this
religion has made great progress among the people of Kandah generally.
Every little village has a mosque, and in most of the towns there are [244]
numerous mosques with schools attached to them, which are generally
crowded by students from every caste. In Gabriell, the Mullahs or priests
are, for the most part, of the Shin caste, but men of every caste are anxious
in giving education to their sons. Their education is limited to Muham-
madan law (of the Hanafite school), and Arabian logic and philosophy.
Very little attention is paid to Arabic or Persian general literature and
calligraphy, that great Oriental art; so little, indeed, that Harifullah and
Mir Abdulla, who are scholars of a very high standard, are wholly ignorant
of any of the calligraphic forms, and their handwriting is scarcely better
than that of the lowest primary class boys in the schools of the Panjab.

The most accomplished scholar in Kandah is the high priest and chief
of *Fatan*, named *Hajrat Ali*, who is a Shin.

The people generally are peaceful, and have a fair complexion and
erect bearing. Their social and moral status has lately been raised very
high. Robbery and adultery are almost unknown, and the usual punish-
ment for these crimes is death. Divorce is seldom practised; polygamy is
not rare among the rich men (*vacils*), but is seldom found among the
common people.

Governance.—Every village or town is governed by a Council of
elders, chosen from among every tribe or "tribe." The most influential
man among these elders for the time being is considered as the chief of the
Council. These elders are either Shin or *Vachkan*. No *Kamin* can be
elected an elder, though he may become a Mullah, but a Mullah-kamin also
cannot be admitted to the Council.

The reigning Council of Gabriell consists of 12 persons, of whom 2 are
Shin and 3 *Vachkans*. *Fahid Khin* is the present chief of the Council.
The post of Chief of the Council is not hereditary, but the wisest and
the most influential of the elders is elected to that post. Justice is admini-
stered by the Mullahs without the intervention of the Council, whose
operation is limited to territorial limits.

Games and Amusements.—Hockey on horseback, which is called
"haghâ" in Gabriell, is played on holidays; and the place where they
meet for the sport is called "haghâ-karin-jha."

Guns are called "nâli" in Gabriell, and are manufactured in the town
by *Blacksmiths*.

Dancing is not practised generally, as in the other Shin countries.
Only "Duma," dance and sing, as this is their profession; they play on
the "nâli" (pipe), *tabbâ* (harp), and *chappâ* (drum).

The "purdâ" system, or "veiling" women, is prevalent among the
gentry, but it is only lately that the system was introduced into this country.